



# NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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## **Supervisors Extend Fee Waiver for Fire Victims**

SAN BERNARDINO - Grand Prix Fire and Old Fire victims have another year to rebuild or repair their fire-damaged homes without paying County building permit fees, the Board of Supervisors decided on Tuesday.

The fee waiver, which the Board first enacted on Jan. 24, 2004, was set to expire on Oct. 31 before Supervisors extended it to Oct. 31, 2006. So far, about 200 homeowners have applied for waivers. The County Land Use Services Department estimates there are about 667 other homeowners who are eligible for the waiver.

"The numbers tell me there are still affected homeowners who could benefit from a fee waiver," Second District Supervisor Paul Biane said. "I don't want to leave anyone out just because it's taking them a little longer to rebuild or repair their home... If extending the waiver will encourage just one homeowner to rebuild, then this will have been worth the effort."

The Board's action authorized Land Use Services to receive up to \$1 million in reimbursement from the County's General Fund. Each approved waiver costs the Department about \$1,500.

Anyone whose primary residence was damaged or destroyed during the Old Fire or Grand Prix Fire in 2003 is eligible for a waiver. The waiver only applies to the original size of the structure. Owners who rebuild larger homes only have to pay fees for the additional space.

Property owners can call (909) 387-4237 for more information about the fee waivers.